

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 19640 161833Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 BIB-01
CU-02 AF-08 ARA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 IO-13 /102 W
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R 161443Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2161
INFO SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY COLLECTIVE 32
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY MADRID
USIA WASHDC
CINCPAC
/CINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AFB
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG
CSAF WASHDC//AFINA/SSA
CNO WASHDC//OP-614
DA WASHDC//DAMI-FII
OSD/ISA/EUR WASHDC
AMEMBASSY DACCA

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TEL AVIV FOR AMBASSADOR

FOR POLADS

USIA FOR IOP, IBS, IPS, IEU

E.O. 11652: NA
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 19640 161833Z

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, GE, GW, UR, US, VN, CU, YS, PO, EI, SP, BG
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - DECEMBER 16, 1976

1. U.S. COVERAGE IS VERY LIGHT.

--PRAVDA CARRIES A TASS WASHINGTON ITEM REPORTING

PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S APPOINTMENTS OF MICHAEL BLUMENTHAL AS SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY AND BROCK ADAMS AS SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION. THE ITEM NOTES THAT BLUMENTHAL IS CURRENTLY PRESIDENT OF THE BENDIX CORPORATION A "MAJOR INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION", BUT DOES NOT OTHERWISE DESCRIBE OR COMMENT ON THE APPOINTEES.

2. IN OTHER COVERAGE:

-- YESTERDAY'S CALLER, IN THE GROWING LIST FROM FOREIGN TRIBUTARY STATES COMING TO PAY HOMAGE FOR BREZHNEV'S 70TH BIRTHDAY, WAS CUBA'S RAUL CASTRO, SECOND SECRETARY OF THE CUBAN PARTY. HE PRESENTED BREZHNEV WITH THE ORDER OF THE BAY OF PIGS. PRAVDA FRONTPAGES REPORTS AND PHOTOS OF THE EVENTS, AND ALSO CARRIES THE TEXT OF CUBAN FIRST SECRETARY FIDEL CASTRO'S BIRTHDAY MESSAGE TO BREZHNEV.

-- ALL CENTRAL NEWSPAPERS CARRY THE TEXT OF POLITBURO MEMBER SUSLOV'S SPEECH TO THE FOURTH CONGRESS OF THE VIETNAMESE WORKERS PARTY. SUSLOV HAILS THE VIETNAMESE FOR THEIR VICTORY LAST YEAR AND POINTS TO A PROMISING FUTURE, FIRMLY ANCHORED IN STRONG SOVIET-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS. SUSLOV MENTIONS "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM" ONLY ONCE AND OMITTS DIRECT REFERENCE TO CHINA. ON A BROADER POINT, HOWEVER, HE SAYS THAT THE "GREAT MAJORITY OF ASIAN COUNTRIES" WANT A "HEALTHY POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE". HE CONTINUES THAT THE "ACTIVE EFFORTS OF ALL THE COUNTRIES OF ASIA" SEEK TO "STRENGTHEN SECURITY" AND "PEACEFUL COOPERATION", WHICH COULD NOT ONLY "RADICALLY CHANGE" THE SITUATION IN THAT AREA, BUT CONTRIBUTE TO THE "IMPROVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL LIFE".

-- COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN IN PRAVDA HAS VLADIMIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 19640 161833Z

YERMAKOV'S ANALYSIS OF PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS. ACCORDING TO YERMAKOV, ELECTIONS REINFORCED LEGITIMACY OF GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS, INCREASED POLARIZATION OF POLITICAL FORCES, STRENGTHENED UNITED LEFT FORCES (WHICH INCLUDE COMMUNISTS BUT NOT SOCIALISTS WHO LEAD "MINORITY GOVERNMENT"), AND WEAKENED FASCISTS AND RIGHTISTS.

-- CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO SCHMIDT FROM BREZHNEV AND KOSYGIN ON HIS ELECTION AS CHANCELLOR EXPRESSES "CONFIDENCE" THAT THERE WILL BE "NEW FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS" IN FRG-USSR RELATIONS.

-- PRAVDA POLITICAL OBSERVER VITALIY KORIONOV WRITES THAT WP ARMS CONTROL PROPOSALS AT BUCHAREST PCC MEETINGS HAVE SHOWN UP NATO AND WEST AS OPPONENTS OF ARMS CONTROL. KORIONOV USES AS EXAMPLE, AND THEN ATTACKS, NYT COMMENTATOR SULZBERGER FOR ARGUING THAT NATO WEAKNESSES DEMAND NATO BUILDUP OF ARMAMENTS.

-- IZVESTIYA REPORTS DEC 15 TALKS BETWEEN VISITING IRISH FONMIN FITZGERALD AND HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART GROMYKO.

THE TALKS WERE REPORTEDLY HELD IN A "FRIENDLY, BUSINESSLIKE
ATMOSPHERE."

-- PRAVDA HAS SHORT REPORT ON SPANISH REFERENDUM
NOTING THAT SOCIALIST AND COMMUNISTS ARE BOYCOTTING IT.
IZVESTIYA PRINTS UNSIGNED (AND THEREFORE
AUTHORITATIVE) PAEAN TO LEONID IL'ICH FOR UNERRING
BRILLIANCE IN LEADING THE SOVIET UNION TO UNBROKEN STRING
OF SUCCESSES IN FOREIGN POLICY IN LAST DECADE. MAIN
EMPHASIS IS ON BREZHNEV'S CREATIVE ROLE IN MOVING FROM
COLD WAR TO DETENTE AND SIMULTANEOUS (AND RELATED) STRENGTHENING
OF SOCIALIST BLOC. (U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS FIGURE HIGH ON LIST
OF ACHIEVEMENTS.)

--PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA CARRY A TASS BERLIN ITEM
REPORTING THE SIGNING OF THE SOVIET-GDS PROTOCOL
ON THE EXCHANGE OF GOODS FOR 1977 BY THE RESPECTIVE FOREIGN
TRADE MINISTERS PATOLICHEV AND SOELLE. THE ACCORD, SAYS
TASS, WILL DEEPEN "SOCIALIST ECONOMIC INTEGRATION", AND
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PAGE 04 MOSCOW 19640 161833Z

THE ITEM LISTS THE MAIN GOODS TO BE EXCHANGED.

--PRAVDA CARRIES A TASS ROME ITEM REPORTING THE
OPENING OF THE ISRAELI CP CONGRESS IN HAIFA WITH
THE SOVIET DELEGATE, AKSENOV, IN ATTENDANCE.

--PRAVDA REPORTS THAT FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN MOROZOV
OF THE SOVIET STATE COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS
RECEIVED PORY (SOUTH YEMEN) POLITBURO MEMBER ANIS HASAN
YAHYA (PHONETIC).

--ALL CENTRAL NEWSPAPERS REPORT THE OPENING OF THE
OPEC MINISTERIAL MEETING IN DOHA, ADDING (APPROVINGLY)
THAT THE MEETING IS EXPECTED TO DECIDE TO INCREASE OIL
PRICES IN KEEPING WITH HIGHER PRICES OF INDUSTRIAL GOODS.

--IZVESTIYA CARRIES A NEGATIVE COMMENTARY BY YU.
VINOKUROV AND M ROSTARCHUK ON THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF
BANGLADESH INDEPENDENCE. LIKE EARLIER SOVIET COMMENTARY,
THIS ONE MAKES MUCH OF MUJIB'S ROLE AND OF SOVIET SUPPORT
FOR HIM, THEN CHARGES THAT HE WAS OPPOSED BY DOMESTIC AND
FOREIGN FORCES WHICH WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH HIS APPROACH.
THE ARTICLE IMPLICITLY BLAMES DACCA FOR POOR BD-INDIAN
RELATIONS AND SHOWS PIQUE THAT BD VOTED AGAINST THE SOVIET
NUF PROPOSAL AT THE UN. MATLOCK

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